Adverse impact on environment and health due to pollution

2125. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that phenomenal growth of industries in non-conforming areas in Delhi has led to a severe adverse impact on the environment of Delhi and health of the residents;

(b) if so, whether air pollution is responsible for the emergency hospitalisation of patients with breathing and heart problems; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or are taking to save people from adverse impact of pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the ambient levels of Sulfur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen are well within the prescribed norms on annual average basis except particulates in the residential areas of Delhi. The study entitled "Outdoor Air Pollution and Emergency Room Visits at a Hospital in Delhi" carried out by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, indicates manifestations of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. However, due to various confounding factors, no conclusive data could be established indicating corelationship between air pollution and consequential health impacts.

(c) The steps taken for control of environmental pollution include formulation of Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening net-work of air & water quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load and source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas.

Loss of trees and forest due to Delhi Metro Railway

2126. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: